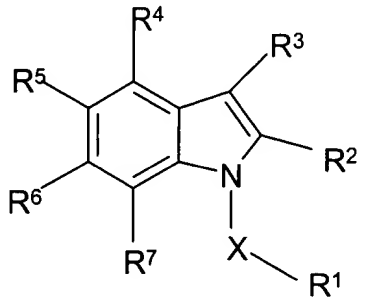
In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating inflammatory disease, ~~mediated by~~ comprising inhibiting monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 and/or RANTES-induced chemotaxis, said method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



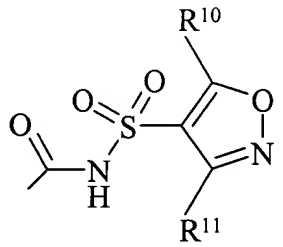
(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, amide or ester thereof; wherein

X is CH_2 or SO_2;

R^1 is an optionally substituted aryl ring;

R^2 is carboxy, cyano, $-C(O)CH_2OH$, $-CONHR^8$, $-SO_2NHR^9$, tetrazol-5-yl, SO_3H, or a group of formula (VI)



(VI)

where R^8 is selected from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, cyano, hydroxy, $-SO_2R^{12}$ where R^{12} is alkyl, aryl, or haloalkyl, or R^8 is a group $-(CHR^{13})_r-COOH$ where r is an integer of 1-3 and each R^{13} group is independently selected from hydrogen or alkyl; R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl, or optionally substituted aryl, or a group COR^{14} where R^{14} is alkyl, aryl, or haloalkyl; and R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from hydrogen or alkyl, particularly C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^3 is a group OR^{15}, $S(O)_qR^{15}$, $NHCOR^{16}$, $NHSO_2R^{16}$, $(CH_2)_sCOOH$, $(CH_2)_tCONR^{17}R^{18}$, $NR^{17}R^{18}$, $SO_2NR^{17}R^{18}$ or optionally substituted alkenyl, where q is 0, 1 or 2, s is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, t is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, R^{15} is a substituted alkyl or cycloalkyl group, R^{16} is optionally substituted alkyl or optionally substituted aryl, and R^{17} and R^{18} are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and optionally substituted aryl, with the proviso that at least one of R^{17} or R^{18} is other than hydrogen; and

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxyl, halo, alkoxy, aryloxy, araalkyl, carboxyalkyl, or an amide derivative thereof~~or an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group, provided that R^4 is other than an alkyl group substituted by OR^{18}, $S(O)_mR^{18}$, or $NR^{19}R^{20}$, where R^{18}, R^{19} and R^{20} are independently selected from hydrogen or optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, or R^{19} and R^{20} together with the atom to which they are attached, form an optionally substituted heterocyclyl ring as defined above which optionally contains further heteroatoms, and m is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 3~~; and

R^5, R^6, and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxyl, halo, alkoxy, or an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is OR^{15}, $S(O)_qR^{15}$, $NHCOR^{16}$, $NHSO_2R^{16}$, or $SO_2NR^{17}R^{18}$, where q, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} and R^{18} are as defined in claim 1.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is a group of formula - $O(CH_2)_a$ $[(CHOH)(CH_2)_b]_d$ CH_2OH, where a is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, b is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 3, and d is 0 or 1.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 3-fluoro-4-chlorophenyl, or 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl or 2,3-dichloropyrid-5-yl.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein X is CH_2.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 subject to the following provisos:

(i) when R^2 is carboxy or a salt or amide thereof, at least three of R^4, R^5, R^6, and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^3 is $S(O)_qR^{15}$, then R^{15} is other than C_{1-4} alkyl substituted by carboxy or an ester or amide derivative thereof;

(ii) when R^3 is a group $NHCOR^{16}$, then R^{16} is optionally substituted alkyl; and

(iii) when R^3 is a group SR^{15}, where R^{15} is 2-quinolylmethyl, R^2 is COOH or an ethyl ester thereof, each of R^4, R^5, and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, then R^6 is other than 2-quinolylmethyl;

in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, subject to the following provisos:

(i) when R^2 is carboxy or a salt or amide thereof, at least three of R^4, R^5, R^6, and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^3 is $S(O)_qR^{15}$, then R^{15} is other than C_{1-4} alkyl substituted by carboxy or an ester or amide derivative thereof;

(ii) when R^3 is a group $NHCOR^{16}$, then R^{16} is optionally substituted alkyl; and

(iii) when R^3 is a group SR^{15}, where R^{15} is 2-quinolylmethyl, R^2 is COOH or an ethyl ester thereof, each of R^4, R^5, and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, then R^6 is other than 2-quinolylmethyl;

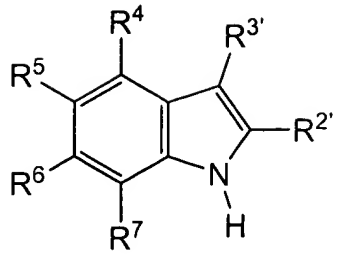
(iv) when R^3 is a group COOH or CH_2COOH, R^2 is COOH and each of R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, then R^1 is other than unsubstituted phenyl;

(v) when R^3 is a group CH_2COOH, R^2 is COOH and each of R^4, R^5, and R^7 are hydrogen, R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, then R^6 is other than methoxy;

(vi) when R^3 is OR^{15} or $S(O)_qR^{15}$, then R^{15} is other than C_{1-6} haloalkyl; and

(vii) when R^2 is $COOCH_2CH_3$, each of R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, then R^3 is other than a group $CH=CH(CN)_2$.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which method comprises reacting a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

where R4, R5, R6 and R7 are as defined in claim 1, R2' is a group R2 as defined in claim 1 or a protected form thereof, and R3' is a group R3 as defined in claim 1 ~~or a group which can be converted to a group R3~~; with a compound of formula (VIII)

R^1-X-Z^1

(VIII)

where R1 and X are as defined in claim 1 and Z1 is a leaving group; and thereafter optionally ~~carrying out one or more of the following steps:~~

~~(i) changing a group R3' which is other than a group R3 to a group R3 or where R3' is a group R3, changing this to a different such group;~~

~~(ii)~~ removing any protecting group from R2'.